Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Generally the pattam in these lands are two paras.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* I am told that it will be 5 and 6 paras.

Demand put and carried

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 3,000 under "28 Public Works, Dearness Allowance". The dearness allowance now payable to the staff has been increased by two rupees. Formerly it was only two rupees. This amount is required to meet the increased expenditure on account of that. I request that the House may be pleased to grant the same.

Demand put and carried

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer);* Sir, I move for an additional allotment of Rs. 1,137 under "22-A—Leprosy Relief". I request that the House may be pleased to vote for the same.

Demand put and carried

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 5,286 under "22-1—Medical Proper—Dearness Allowance". I request the House may be pleased to grant the same.

Demand put and carried

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 577 under "22-2—Mental Hospital—Dearness Allowance". I request the House to grant the same.

Demand put and carried

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* Sir, I request that the House may be pleased to grant a transfer of Rs. 176 from "22-1—C.M.O." to "22-1—Dearness Allowance".

Demand put and carried

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* Sir, I request that the House may be pleased to grant a transfer of Rs. 370 from "22-1—Civil Surgeon" to "22-1—Dearness Allowance".

Demand put and carried

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* Sir, I move for an additional allotment of Rs. 6,217 under "11 (2)-Tramway—Dearness Allowance". I request that the House may be pleased to grant the same.

Demand put and carried

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Sir, I move for an additional allotment of Rs. 1,55,249 under "38-Miscellaneous—2—Price Control Measures—A. Establishment". I request the House May be pleased to vote for the same.

Demand put and carried

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Sir, I move for an additional allotment of Rs. 8,872 under "38-Miscellaneous—Price Control Measures—Votable". I request that the House may be pleased to grant the same.

Demand put and carried

At this stage the Hon'ble President left the Chair and the Hon'ble Deputy President presided.

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—*(cont.)*

CUT MOTION No. 60

Provident Fund—Staff of Aided Schools

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Sir, I beg to move *to reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,036 for Direction and Inspection by Re. 1. (To impress upon the Government the necessity of making applicable all the rules of the Provident Fund system applicable to Government servants to the permanent staff of aided educational institutions in the State without reducing the quota contributed by the Government to the Aided Teachers' Provident Fund at present).*

Sir, without much explanation, I hope the House can understand the implication of this motion. Even now there is an aided teachers' Provident Fund. A portion of this fund is to be contributed by the management, one portion by the teachers and the Government will also contribute a third portion. There are managers who really contribute their quota to the Provident Fund. There are managers also who do not contribute. But at the same time in certain schools the teachers contribute the quota on behalf of the management and realise the quota from the Government. This category of teachers is a sort of more intelligent and clever people, or rather teachers who are of the richer class. The larger number of the teachers who belong to the poorer class and managers who are not sufficiently rich as to pay their quota with the result that

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a very large number of aided school teachers those especially who teaches in the Malayalam section of the primary department who are getting very meagre monthly salary are finding it exceedingly difficult to pay both the quota due to the management as well as their own share of contribution. My request is that the Government should not insist that the quota to be paid by the management ought to be paid. If the teacher pays his quota the Government may be pleased to pay their quota so that at least that amount can be saved and teachers who are willing to pay their quota may be benefitted by this provident fund system. The only position I have to make the Government understand is that as far as possible these poor teachers who have not got the benefit of pension be benefitted to a certain extent. I request that the Government may be pleased to alter the rules sufficiently as to enable these poor teachers to contribute their share provided the Government also contribute their share.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Sir, I support the motion. Now it has been stated that there are two classes of managers. But there is a third class of managers who won't contribute and who won't allow the teachers to have this benami transactions. In such cases there will be hardships. The teachers cannot get the benefit of the provident Fund. According to the first class of managers, the teachers are not suffering any loss. Even though there is some duplicity or benami transaction, the teachers are benefitted. The third class of managers are very strict. They won't allow teachers to pay on their behalf and will say "we are unable to pay". The result is that no provident fund is started. There is no loss to the Government. The only thing is that the rules may be amended to this effect that even in cases where the managers are not willing to contribute their quotas, the teachers may contribute their quota and the Government may contribute their quota and thus the Provident Fund may be started. The Government need not give any additional contribution.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I would like to get one piece of information. How many aided schools are there where the Provident Fund system is in vogue, and how many not.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* It is only a very few who have joined the Provident Fund System.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* The Government in starting the Provident Fund had the kind intention of making a provision for the teacher for his old age when he will have retired from service and will not be in a position to earn. Now for that scheme to be a success, there is the condition also imposed that the management should also contribute a third of the amount, a third being contributed by the teacher and a third by the Government. So far as the teacher is concerned, he is willing to contribute. But he has no control over the management. And if the manager is unwilling to contribute, under the present rules, he loses the share which he might otherwise get from the Government either. The proposal now is, whether the management contributes or not the portion which the Government have so kindly agreed to contribute towards the future provision of the teacher, may be granted irrespective of the fact whether the management is contributing or not. Of course, if the management also contributes, well and good. But even in cases where the management for various reasons may not be willing to contribute, why should we penalise the teacher for the default of the management? In the case of teachers in Government schools there are only two parties. The teacher contributes on the one side and the Government contributes on the other.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* We do not contribute.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* But there, there is the pension. But these teachers have no pension and the only provision for them is the Provident Fund. If this proposal is accepted, the Government is not going to lose anything, for in any case they will be contributing only their share, and not of the defaulting management.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Sir, in reply to a question from the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri, I pointed out that the number of schools which have joined the Provident Fund is very low and if this cut is accepted, Government will have to contribute practically to all schools.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* The greater reason then to press the point. The Government have started a Provident Fund scheme, it would seem, from what the Hon'ble Member for Education has just said, with the idea that teachers should not enter therein. It comes to that. If the Government is afraid that this modification of the rule will lead to many teachers coming within the scheme, if the Government is afraid of that, then I should say, with due deference, that the intention behind this seems to be that there should be for appearance sake a Provident Fund, but that teachers should not enter into the scheme, because if more teachers come, the greater will be the expenditure.

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Whatever be the action taken by the Management, the Government should do something for the teachers, the teacher may not be penalised for the shortcomings of the management. That is all what is intended by the motion. And I say, the Government is not going to lose by accepting the motion. For supposing the management is contributing; then the Government also will be forced to contribute their own share to the Fund, according to the Rules as they are now. And if the motion is accepted and the Rules changed accordingly, then, too, the Government will be contributing only their own share. There is no request to the Government to contribute more. Let them contribute only such amount that they would be contributing if the management also were contributing. So, no additional amount will be required, so far as the financial commitment is concerned; and many teachers will be benefitted. Don't allow them to suffer because of the inaction of the managers.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* Then penalise the manager, with-hold the amount from the grant.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Sir, I say charity begins at home. If the management is not pleased to help their own teachers, they have no right to ask for money from the public coffers.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Due to poverty, the management is not in a position to contribute.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* If the Manager is not able to help his employee, why should he get 14 annas in the rupee ? If he cannot make up the 2 annas in the rupee why should be there manager. Simply for the honour of it he should not receive the 14 annas in the rupee. They should make up this 2 annas in the rupee from their own pocket and pay to the poor teacher for serving them.

Mr. Joseph Petta *(Adur):* What has the poor teacher to do for it ?

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Why should the manager be there to manage the school, simply for the money and honour ?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Out of sympathy for the teachers.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* I have got sympathy for the teachers. I have tabled a welfare scheme and also resolutions and all know how much sympathy I have got for these people.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi) :* Misdirected.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Not at all. What I say is, as I have already said, charity must begin at home. You must be charitable and you must go out of your way even to help the teachers.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* The managers are poor.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* If the managers are poor, close down such schools. The Government will conduct those schools. Not only private primary schools, even secondary schools, will be run by Government. Why should you run ?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* The Government will have no funds.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* The Government can find out funds. We can find funds for it. If the managers want to share public money from public coffers, they must also be prepared to share the responsibilities.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* On a point of order, Sir, this is not a request from the management. This is a cut motion for the benefit of the teachers.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* This is not a request either from the management or from the teachers.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* It is on behalf of the teachers.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* And also for the Hon'ble Member for Adur.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Provident Fund means to provide for a later date. Who is to provide ? Primarily the employer must provide. It is the duty of the employer to provide pensions and also be prepared to help them when they retire.

Mr. Ephraim Ouseph *(Narakkal):* The manager is not the employer.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Then, who else is the employer ?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* The Director of Public Instruction.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Then let the managers go away handing over the schools to the Government and let the Director dispose of everything, management and everything else. Why should you manage ? Hand over the whole department to the Government saying, we have done so far, we are not able to do anything further ; then the Government will manage.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* We will have to contribute 30 lakhs to the ducatio n Budget then.

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Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* With the 20 lakhs now in the Education budget, after all what is the amount that we are gaining by having the aided schools. Only a very small amount, 2 annas in the rupee. We have to pay 14 annas and even if we have to pay the whole how much more would it come to ?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* You will have to incur so much additional expenditure like pensionary contribution, cost of building and so many other items.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Let it be so ; the teachers will be much better off, they will be getting pension, they will get provident fund, they will get everything. You intervene between the Government and teachers and but for your interference the teachers would be getting all the concessions enjoyed by the Government teachers.

Sir, I think this is a proposition that we cannot agree to, we cannot agree the taking of more money from Government coffers to be spent on private institutions. If the private institutions are not prepared to do what they ought to, in the matter of provident fund, we cannot help them.

Mr. Ephraim Ouseph *(Narakkal):* It was at the encouragement of the State that private managements came into being.

Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon *(Ernakulam-Women):* May I know whether the managers are giving dearness allowance to teachers ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Sir, the presumption is that they pay.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Do you doubt it ?

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur Rural):* It is due to the folly of the Government that this question arose.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Sir, let me make it quite clear at the very outset that I have no kind or partisanship in this, not even partisanship for the Government because Government themselves have not partisanship in this. One or two members who tried to speak on this cut motion.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Sir, may I make a request. Will the Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction be pleased to try to explain the implication of this cut motion, what is wanted by this cut motion. In spite of the very lucid explanation given by the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam I have not been able to make out what he means. If the Hon'ble Director of Public Instruction can explain the motion, we will be in a position to understand what we are talking about. I went through the cut motion ten times and attentively listened to his speech, but I could not make out what he means. I think you will be better able to make us understand.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* While I feel much chary to accept the compliment,

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* It is not a compliment. If my being honest is a compliment to you, then you can take it as a compliment.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* The Hon'ble Member wants me to explain the cut motion. If that is so, I would ask him to refer to the Hon'ble Mover himself.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* He is not able to do it.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* I can only say that I cannot go through each phrase of the motion.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* I do not want that.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* I shall try to explain the motion to you as I understand it. Whether it is the original intention of the mover, I cannot say.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Even the mover cannot say that.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* I understand the cut motion to mean, Sir, that the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam wants that the rules that govern the general provident fund must be made applicable to the contributory provident fund. In other words, irrespective of any contribution from any one, Government must make a contribution, because in the case of the general provident fund, there has been no contribution from any one else, the subscriber pays, which is the officer concerned. Here, there are two possibilities, either teachers of aided schools may be allowed to contribute to general provident fund, whether Government or manager pay or not. In other words, it would be in the same position he would be as a Government servant who makes his contribution, Government being only the custodian of the money, allowing a certain percentage of interest on the amount. That is just one possibility. Another possibility is, which is urged with considerable force by some Hon'ble

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members is whether the managers contribute or not wherever the teachers of aided schools are willing to pay, Government must be compelled to pay. Hon'ble Members are willing to compel the Government, but not willing to compel the managers. My submission to the House is, if Hon'ble Members want that aided school teachers must have a small pile of money, by which they could stand by in their days of superannuation, this House should authorise Government to compel the managers to pay their contribution and ask the Government also to contribute at the same time. *(Hear, hear).* Because that is one of the conditions.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* In some cases teachers are the managers also.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* They will make two contributions. Such cases are unfortunately very few in number. They are willing to contribute and they are contributing even now. That paradox is not going to solve this problem. I want the House to make it clear so that the Government may express a view, if it is intention of the House through this cut motion that Government should be compelled to make a contribution and thus enable every teacher to join the contributory fund, while allowing the managers to be free to contribute or not. Government cannot accept it. It is quite obvious. A responsible House like this should not compel Government to do this, to undertake this enormous expenditure. I don't wish that the House should be carried away by the idea that the Government want to shirk responsibility to the private and aided school teachers of making their contribution to the provident fund. If that were so, Government would not have contributed this system of contributory provident fund and they never expected that the responsible managers would be so very unsatisfactory. It is to open the hon'ble members to use their influence and incidentally compel the Governmemt to contribute by compelling the managers to contribute.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Exactly.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Until this is done it is not possible for Government to accede to the cut motion if it is meant in this manner.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* As at present stands, are the aided school teachers permitted to draw the amount from the amount already paid by them and insure their lives in insurance companies which the Government have recognised.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* They are not allowed.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* My cut motion will extend to that, to the widened scope of the present provident fund system also.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* There are other features also which will come within your resolution, though you do not seem to have contemplated them. You want that all the characteristic features of the Government provident fund should be made applicable to the aided school teachers provident fund. Of the many important features of the Provident Fund, one important feature is it is a compulsory institution and all permanent Government servants are compelled to join the provident fund. It is not so with the aided school teacher. In the case of the aided school teacher when you emphasise that the Government should shoulder all the burden we are forgetting the duties and responsibilities of an employer towards his employee; It is always the duty of the employer to see that his servants are adequately provided for. It is thus the duty of the manager to see that his teachers are adequately provided for if he takes any real genuine interest in the case of those teachers. Now if you are going to throw all this onerous responsibility on the Government, it will come to this: the manager employs whomsoever he wants in his institution subject to the condition that he posses ses the requisite qualifications and gets the approval of the Director.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* There is the approval there.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Yes, there is the approval. He appoints his own nephews, he appoints outsiders which was the subject matter of a heated discussion on the floor of this House yesterday, and gets a lot of money from the exchequer on their behalf. As it now stands, we are spending about Rs. 22,500 on behalf of the aided school provident fund, and yet it must be understood we have drawn to its orbit so far only 1300 of our teachers. What will be the result if the cut motion is accepted by the Government and the scheme is introduced. The whole body of the aided school teachers will no doubt be computed and managers will only be too glad as they have to bear no burden and some of them may even gain. The whole body of the aided teachers will be drawn into its orbit and the expenditure on the exchequer will be roughly more than 2 lakhs of rupees. I have not calculated the exact figure. In any case the expenditure will be very high. As was pointed out, it is first the duty of the manager, the employer to see that he makes his genuine effort to provide for his teachers and then it is for you to see.

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Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Even sacrifice.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Yes, sacrifice—that Government also contributes its mite in this affair. One important principle of contributory provident fund found everywhere where there is a contributory provident fund is that the employer always contributes something towards the provident fund. It is so in the case of the Railway, it is so in our own Municipalities, it is so everywhere. As far as the aided school provident fund system is concerned, it is so in Travancore it is so in British India, it is so in Mysore, and everywhere it is so. Why this novel feature should be introduced in the Cochin State alone and let the manager go scot free and put all the burden on the Government itself? That is one aspect of the question.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* Is not the Government a part employer in this case?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* I have already explained the Government's position as an employer. As long as the Government see that the teachers are properly recruited and governed, they leave it there.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Do not the Government see that they get fixity of posts also?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* When once a teacher is allowed to go into rolls, Government do see that the manager's whims and fancies do not play with him. That of course is in accordance with the wishes of this House, and we are trying to protect these teachers. Otherwise we do know where the teachers would be. Another feature of the contributory provident fund as distinct from the Government provident fund is the hon'ble member wants to introduce all the special feature of the Government Provident Fund to the aided school provident fund. In the case of the Government provident fund we have guaranteed to the Government servants only a minimum interest. There is no contribution by the Government in the case of Government servants. We have guaranteed for him a return of 4 per cent in the case of the aided school teachers Government pays an equal contribution as that of the manager and that of the teacher and in addition we have also guaranteed to him a three per cent interest. Can the Government go beyond all these things in the matter of this Provident Fund. How can you ask the Government to extend their sympathies to aided school teachers beyond this. We are all very sympathetic towards them. As was pointed out, due to the protection given to the teachers no manager is able to turn his little finger against them. That is the sort of protection and sympathy we extend to them. There is the contributory Provident Fund in addition to which every one, if he is willing might join, and Government have also guaranteed to him a compound interest of three per cent. Government regret that they cannot go beyond that so far as the Provident Fund is concerned.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* The theory of the employer and the employee is not applicable in the case of all aided schools in the State. It is a fact which is quite well known to the Treasury Bench.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Why?

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* There is a class of managers among the managers of aided schools in the State who do conduct the school not for its ideals and not for the honest services but purely as a mercantile business.

Mr. P. V. Rapheal *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Find them out, expose them and damn them.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Pulbic Instruction):* Why not authorise the Government at least in their case to compel them to contribute.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Let us see if they can afford. Of course we know that in the case of the managers of many of the aided schools in the State it is difficult. Several of the institutions are run by charitable bodies. It is in the interest of the poor teachers who are being exploited by the management that I have brought this to the notice of the house. It is not in the light in which the Hon'ble Member for Finance said that this motion has been brought before the Government. The comparison of the Government Provident Fund and the Aided School Teachers' Provident Fund as explained by the Member for Finance cannot be applied in this case.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* You wanted to apply all aspects.

Mr. A. B. Slem *(Mattancheri):* The Member did not know what he wanted.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* I knew. Government teacher has got the benefit of the pension and Provident Fund. The poor aided teacher has not got the benefit of the pension. The aided teacher is rather a quasi Government servant and there was a time when the aided teachers were prohibited from standing for election to the Town Council and the Municipalities.

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Aided service has been looked upon practically a part of the Government service—it was and even now it is so. Hence, the Government must view the affair in a different light and also with more sympathy towards these poor teachers. I do not want to press this motion to a division now. I will postpone it to a later date. I want by this to create a sort of public opinion in the State on this matter.

Mr. K. S. Panicker *(Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram):* Public opinion is that it is a commercial concern.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* There are such managers. Government should contribute something and help such poor teachers, I don't mind managers being penalised.

Mr. K. S. Panicker *(Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram):* There is no use of shedding crocodile tears.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Don't call him a crocodile.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* I do not press this motion to a division. If the Government would consider this with more sympathy, the poor teachers would be in a better condition than at present. I beg leave of the house to withdraw the motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn

CUT MOTION No. 61

Aid to Schools started in 1117 or earlier

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi): To reduce the allotment of Rs. 17,996 for establishment of the Director by Re. 1. To request the Government that aid should be given to all classes and divisions started in Edavam 1117 or earlier.* There is a cut motion in the name of the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri. That is cut motion No. 24.

Mr. C. K. Nayar *(Nemmara):* There is one cut motion in name—Cut motion No. 27.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* The Honourable the Finance Member on behalf of the Government gave a very excellent demonstration of the very great sympathy for the poor teachers. If that is so, I think the Government will readily accept the motion which is for the benefit of the teachers. In these days when we hear so much of compulsory education in the State I think this motion would never have to come here. Because it is the duty of the Government to pay all the teachers who are running the schools. If compulsion is introduced then Government will have to pay the teachers. In such cases, Government will also have to feed the poor students. Now before we come to that stage of compulsory education, let us pay all teachers, who have been running the school for the past two or three years. The Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction in his report on education last year in the concluding portion has stated that the attendance in Primary schools is going down. I have verified the figures. I find the reason is that the lowest attendance is only in the case of Depressed Class students. In all the other cases there is increase of attendance. Already in the case of the Deprassed classes there is a decrease of attendance that contributes to the decrease in the general attendance of the schools. I am coming to the point.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Thank God.

Mr. A. V. Moothedn *(Chalakkudi):* For understanding my point these collateral cicumstances have to be borne in mind. The Hon'ble Member for Mattancheri will insist upon free compuslory education and he will I am sure support this motion, as a condition precedent.

The House rose for lunch at 1-30 p.m. and reassembled at 2-30 p.m. with the Deputy President in the Chair.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Sir, the question before the House is whether we should give grant to schools started in 1117 and prior to that. These poor teachers without any remuneration whatsoever have been voluntarily working for the past 3 years. I know one instance. In Kodakara, the Director has been pleased to sanction the starting of a school. In 1115 he gave permission to start a school. There were backward and depressed class children, Christians and Ezhuvas, all poor. A lower primary school was started in 1115 in Thaisseri. Each teacher has advanced out of their pocket about Rs. 100 or more and in the past 3 years they have been working and even now they are not given any aid. Can a harder case be imagined? Virtually there is a manager, but he is not rich enough to advance any money and so the teachers have been suffering. Even now they are not receiving any aid. Some of the Hon'ble Members, the lady member for Ernakulam, was observing, hand over all the schools to the Government, they will pay all the teachers. That question is a very simple question, so simple that it is full of fallacy. Sir, even now, according to the Director of Public Instruction, the education demand is the highest in the State, more than 1/5th of the State revenue is spent for education. If the proposal of the lady member for Ernakulam is accepted, the expenditure will come to more than Rs. 30 lakhs.

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